

IN HONOR OF MARCUS STEELE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of Mr. Marcus Steele, a sophomore at Cleveland Central Catholic High School who died tragically on October 13, 2000 during a football game against Trinity.

It is always devastating to hear stories about the untimely deaths of young people, but it is even more difficult when the tragedy strikes close to home. There is a void in the hearts of many in the city of Cleveland today, as we say good-bye to this loved and respected young man. Marcus didn't knowingly put himself into harms way; he was simply playing the game that he loved. We cannot explain why he was taken from us at such a young age, but we must do our best to reflect upon the positive ways in which Marcus touched our lives.

Marcus was a warm, caring individual who was genuinely admired by all those around him. His classmates and teammates describe him as open, motivated, jovial and popular. Marcus will be remembered most for his catching smile and his dedication to and appreciation for his family and friends. Also, as a linebacker and running back on the football team and as a key member of the basketball team, Marcus's wealth of athletic talent will certainly be missed on the playing fields at Cleveland Central Catholic. In characterizing him as an athlete, football coach Paul Cunningham said, "Marcus never held anything back in practice, and he played the game that way too. He was a hard-nosed kid with a real future in this sport. You don't replace him. Marcus was one of a kind."

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in remembering Marcus Steele. He was a fine young man who will surely be missed by all who knew him. I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends and the staff, classmates, coaches and teammates of Marcus Steele at Cleveland Central Catholic High School. May you find the faith and strength to carry you through this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN ROMAN PUCINSKI

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, despite the Vice President's claim to have invented the Internet, a strong case can be made that former Congressman Roman Pucinski (D-Chicago) had a lot to do with this development. A Chicago Sun-Times article from the Casual Friday Column of Friday, October 29, 1999, referred to this interesting fact, and I am pleased to share it with my colleagues.

**"POOCH" MAY BE THE FATHER OF NET**

On October 20, 1969, history was made when the first e-mail was sent on ARPANET, the predecessor of today's Internet.

So if you think presidential hopeful Al Gore "invented" the Internet, you're sadly mistaken.

Another pol can lay claim to inventing the Net. None other than Chicago's own Roman C. Pucinski, 80, the retired Democratic congressman, one-time Chicago alderman and longtime Chicago Sun-Times reporter.

Roman's daughter, Aurelia, Cook County Circuit Court clerk, let us know the other day that the elder Pucinski was the real father of the Internet. She shared old press releases and speeches on the subject with Casual Friday. We even saw "Pooch's" original notes.

On Jan. 17, 1963, Pucinski proposed a national scientific computer network. He chaired the House Education and Labor Committee, which voted a sum "not to exceed \$7,000" to begin studies on the computer network. Proud daughter Aurelia suggests that Roman proposed National Information System ultimately evolved into today's Internet. Maybe it did.

In a speech in 1965, Pucinski said he foresaw scientists having pocket-size TVs that tied in with the world. Shades of Palm Pilots.

"In a matter of seconds, a scientist will be able to communicate and interrogate the world's storehouse of information and reproduce instantly any article or portion he may need," Pucinski said.

Sounds like Yahoo! And other Web directories and search engines!

Back in the days when computer punch cards were symbols of high tech, Pucinski predicted that the computer industry someday would "stand beside steel, transportation, auto production and building construction as one of this nation's basic industries—holding out great hope for employment not only among the young but also among the old." What a master of understatement.

Footnote: Chicago booster Pucinski wanted the university-based data center to be based here. If it has unfolded that way, maybe Silicon Prairie would have put the Silicon Valley in its shadow, maybe it still will. Let's win one for the Pooch.

HONORING THE 119TH AIR  
CONTROL SQUADRON

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, after 50 years as a mobile, tactical radar unit, the 119th Air Control Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. John F. White at McGhee Tyson Air Base in the Second District of Tennessee, is observing its half-century of service this month.

This is also a unique and interesting time for the squadron, as it will be the oldest Air National Guard unit in East Tennessee to move to the United States Space Command.

The Space Command was looking for a unit that had a depth of experience in command and control, running an operations center for a general office, controlling forces, movement of forces, the operations of forces, and responding to other tasks. The 119th Air Control Squadron matched these qualifications and demands perfectly.

The unit was federally recognized 50 years ago on October 6, 1950, while located on Sutherland Avenue at the former site of McGhee Tyson Airport in west Knoxville. It

was called to active duty in 1952 to Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts. It has been at its present location at McGhee Tyson Air Base since 1956.

Over the past decade, the unit has completed seven major Air Force command inspections. The last one was in 1996 at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico when the unit received the highest rating ever given an air squadron during an Operational Readiness Inspection.

The 119th Squadron has been awarded six Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, two Joint Meritorious Service Awards, two National Guard Meritorious Service Awards, and two Air Guard Outstanding Mission Support Squadron Awards.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with the citizens of the 2nd District in congratulating Lt. Col. John F. White and the 119th Squadron for their service and devotion to the people of East Tennessee and the world. I want to wish them all the luck in the future on their new missions and endeavors. I ask my fellow colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in thanking the 119th Squadron for their many years of service and contributions to East Tennessee and the United States. Our Nation is certainly a better place because of people like those who serve in the beloved 119th Air Control Squadron.

## RECOGNIZING JOSEPH PHELPS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joseph Phelps for his outstanding leadership role in making health care accessible to all members of our community. Mr. Phelps will be honored by the St. Helena Hospital Foundation for being a key supporter of many important health, cultural and educational organizations in Napa Valley.

Upon graduation from college, where he studied engineering and construction management, Joseph Phelps spent three years as a naval officer in the Pacific during the Korean War. After returning from duty, he presided over the expansion of a small local firm into a nationally prominent construction organization.

In 1972, Mr. Phelps developed the Joseph Phelps Vineyards, located in Spring Valley near St. Helena, CA. The vineyards stretch across a 600-acre ranch that is characterized by rolling hills, California native oaks, and 160 acres of tended vines.

Over the years, Mr. Phelps has not only established one of the most respected benchmarks of California wine quality, but has contributed to numerous health care benefits in the community, including the establishment of the health resource library at The Women's Center of St. Helena Hospital.

Additionally, Mr. Phelps is a major supporter of the annual Napa Valley Wine Auction, which has become the nation's largest and most successful charity wine auction. The auction has raised over \$20 million for such critical programs as Napa Women's Emergency Services, Hospice of Napa Valley, Planned Parenthood, and Healthy Moms and Babies.

Mr. Phelps will be honored for these and many other contributions at the St. Helena